

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of routing a flow of frames for a core-edge switch configuration, the core-edge switch configuration configured to receive frames at an edge switch, route them to a core switch and then route them to an edge switch for transmission, the method comprising:

receiving at least one frame of ~~said~~ the flow of frames at an edge switch of ~~said~~ the core-edge switch configuration;

applying a process at one switch in the core-edge switch configuration to select a route through at least two switches forming the core-edge switch configuration ~~from said edge switch to a core switch~~ for said at least one frame of ~~said~~ the flow of frames so as to balance ~~potentially reduce~~ frame traffic through ~~congestion in said the~~ core-edge switch configuration; and

transmitting said at least one frame from an edge switch of the core-edge switch configuration.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said process comprises a pseudo-random process.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein applying said pseudo-random process comprises applying a hash function.

4.-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said hash function is ~~also~~ applied to possible routes through ~~said~~ the core-edge switch configuration to

balance the flow of frames through ~~said~~ the core-edge switch configuration to an ~~particular~~ external exit port of ~~said~~ the core-edge switch configuration.

7.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said process comprises applying a weights
~~is respectively assigned to at least some respective ones of said exit ports of said configuration;~~
~~and further comprising: applying a process to select a route for a frame of said flow of frames so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core-edge switch configuration by employing the weights to select an exit port of said configuration that is as good as or better than alternative exit ports in terms of achieving an objective reflected by said weights.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said weights are applied to possible routes through the core-edge switch ~~exit ports of said configuration comprise exit ports of edge switches of said~~ to balance the flow of frames through the core-edge switch configuration to an external port of the core-edge switch configuration.

21.-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said route is selected based at least in part on a source tag and/or a destination tag added to said frame after said frame enters a switch of ~~said~~ the core-edge switch configuration.

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30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said source tag and/or said destination tag is stripped off said frame before said frame exits ~~said~~ the core-edge switch configuration.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said switches of said configuration comprise ~~fibre~~ Fibre channel ~~Channel~~ compliant switches.

33. (Currently Amended) A switch fabric comprising:
at least a first switch and a second switch, said first and said second switch being communicatively coupled;
said first switch including:
~~a processor and memory;~~
at least two core switches;
at least two edge switches coupled to said at least two core switches so that a flow of frames is from an edge switch to a core switch to an edge switch to develop a core-edge switch configuration; and
routing logic associated with a switch which ~~said first switch being adapted to select~~ a route through at least two switches forming said core-edge switch configuration for a frame of said flow of frames ~~from an edge switch to a core switch so as to balance the potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in a~~ through said core-edge switch configuration.

34. (Currently Amended) The switch fabric of claim 33, wherein said ~~first switch is adapted to~~ routing logic pseudo-randomly selects a route for asaid frame of said flow of frames ~~so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core-edge switch configuration.~~

35. (Currently Amended) The switch fabric of claim 34, wherein said ~~first switch~~ routing logic ~~is adapted to~~ pseudo-randomly selects asaid route by applying a hash function.

36.-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) The switch fabric of claim 35, wherein said ~~first switch~~ routing logic ~~is also adapted to apply~~ applies said hash function to possible routes through said core-edge switch configuration to balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch configuration to an ~~particular~~ external exit port of said core-edge switch configuration.

39.-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) The switch fabric of claim 33, wherein said routing logic applies weights to select said route ~~a weight is respectively assigned to at least some respective ones of said exit ports of said configuration;~~

—— wherein said first switch is further adapted to select a route for a frame of said flow frames so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said ~~core-edge switch~~ configuration by employing the weights to select an exit port of said configuration that is as good as or better than alternative exit ports in terms of achieving an objective reflected by said weights.

52. (Currently Amended) The switch fabric of claim 51, wherein said weights are applied to possible routes through exit ports of said core-edge switch configuration to balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch ~~comprise exit ports of edge switches of said configuration to an external port of said core-edge switch configuration.~~

53.-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) The switch fabric of claim 33, wherein said ~~first switch~~ routing logic ~~is adapted to select~~ said route based at least in part on a source tag and/or a destination tag added to said frame after said frame enters a switch of said core-edge switch configuration.

62. (Currently Amended) The switch fabric of claim 61, wherein ~~said first one~~
of said core or edge switches ~~is adapted to strip~~ said source tag and/or said destination
tag off said frame before said frame exits said first core-edge switch configuration.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) The switch fabric of claim 33, wherein said first and
second switches comprises a Fibre Channel compliant switches.

65. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a switch, said switch including:
~~a processor and memory;~~
at least two core switches;
at least two edge switches coupled to said at least two core switches so
that a flow of frames is from an edge switch to a core switch to an edge switch to develop
a core-edge switch configuration; and
routing logic associated with a switch which ~~said switch further having the~~
~~capability to balance a flow of frames exiting said switch;~~
~~said switch being adapted to select~~ a route through at least two switches forming
said core-edge switch configuration for a frame of said flow of frames ~~from an edge~~
~~switch to a core switch so as to balance~~ potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in a
through said core-edge switch configuration.

66. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 65, wherein ~~said switch is~~
~~adapted to routing logic~~ pseudo-randomly selects a route for ~~a~~said frame of said flow of
frames ~~so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core-edge switch~~
~~configuration.~~

67. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein ~~said switch is~~
~~adapted to routing logic~~ pseudo-randomly selects asaid route by applying a hash function.

68.-69. (Cancelled)

70. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein said ~~switch is also adapted to routing logic apply~~ applies said hash function to possible routes through said core-edge switch configuration to balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch configuration to an ~~particular~~ external exit port of said core-edge switch configuration.

71.-82. (Cancelled)

83. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 65, wherein said routing logic applies weights to select said route ~~a weight is respectively assigned to at least some respective ones of said exit ports of said configuration;~~

—— wherein said switch is further adapted to select a route for a frame of said flow of frames so as to ~~potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core-edge switch configuration by employing the weights to select an exit port of said configuration that is as good as or better than alternative exit ports in terms of achieving an objective reflected by said weights.~~

84. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 83, wherein said weights are applied to possible routes through exit ports of said core-edge switch configuration to balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch ~~comprise exit ports of edge switches of said configuration to an external port of said core-edge switch configuration.~~

85.-92. (Cancelled)

93. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 65, wherein said ~~switch is adapted to routing logic~~ selects said route based at least in part on a source tag and/or a

destination tag added to said frame after said frame enters a switch of said core-edge switch configuration.

94. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 93, wherein one of said core or edge said switches is adapted to strip said source tag and/or said destination tag off said frame before said frame exits said core-edge switch configuration.

95. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 65, wherein said switch comprises a ~~fibre~~ Fibre channel-Channel compliant switch.

96. (Cancelled)

97. (Currently Amended) A network comprising:
a host;
a physical storage unit; and
a first switch ~~and a second switch communicatively coupled to form a switch fabric;~~
~~said first switch and said second switch further communicatively coupled to said~~
host and said physical storage unit;
said first switch ~~at least including: a processor and memory;~~
at least two core switches;
at least two edge switches coupled to said at least two core switches so
that a flow of frames is from an edge switch to a core switch to an edge switch to develop
a core-edge switch configuration; and
routing logic associated with a switch which said first switch being
adapted to select a route through at least two switches forming said core-edge switch
configuration for a frame of said flow of frames from an edge switch to a core switch so
as to balance potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in a through said core-edge
switch configuration.

98. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 97, wherein said ~~first switch~~ is adapted to routing logic pseudo-randomly selects a said route for said a frame of said flow of frames so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said ~~core-edge switch configuration~~.

99. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 98, wherein said ~~first switch~~ is adapted to routing logic pseudo-randomly selects a said route by applying a hash function.

100.-101. (Cancelled)

102. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 99, wherein said ~~first switch~~ is also adapted to routing logic applies said hash function to possible routes through said core-edge switch configuration to balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch configuration to an particular external exit port of said core-edge switch configuration.

103.-113. (Cancelled)

114. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 97, wherein said routing logic applies weights to select said route a weight is respectively assigned to at least some ~~respective ones of said exit ports of said configuration;~~

—— wherein said ~~first switch~~ is further adapted to select a route for a frame of said flow of frames so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said ~~core-edge switch configuration~~ by employing the weights to select an exit port of said ~~configuration~~ that is as good as or better than alternative exit ports in terms of achieving an objective reflected by said ~~weights~~.

115. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 114, wherein said weights are applied to possible routes through exit ports of said core-edge switch configuration to

balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch ~~comprise exit ports of edge switches of said configuration~~ to an external port of said core-edge switch configuration.

116.-123. (Cancelled)

124. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 97, wherein said ~~first switch~~ is adapted to routing logic selects said route based at least in part on a source tag and/or a destination tag added to said frame after said frame enters a switch of said core-edge switch configuration.

125. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 97, wherein one of said core or edge said first switches ~~is adapted to~~ strips said source tag and/or said destination tag off said frame before said frame exits said ~~first core-edge switch configuration~~.

126.-157. (Cancelled)